

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BANGKO 23484 151521Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9490

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 23484

EXDIS

EA FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE FROM ABRAMOWITZ

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: OCON
SUBJ: CHIEFS OF MISSION CONFERENCE

1. I BELIEVE A COM MEETING IN BANGKOK WOULD HAVE SOME USEFUL SYMBOLIC SIGNIFICANCE HERE AND IN THE REST OF SOUTHEAST ASIA, PARTICULARLY COMING UPON THE US-ASEAN MINISTERIAL. I WOULD BE HAPPY TO HOST SUCH A MEETING IF YOU WANT TO GO AHEAD. I MENTIONED IT TO KRIANGSAK, WHO RAISED NO PROBLEMS. IN FACT I THOUGHT HE SORT OF LIKED THE IDEA. THE ONLY PROBLEM FOR ME IS THAT I WANTED TO HOST AN ASEAN AMBASSADORIAL CONFERENCE HERE, BUT WE CAN DO THAT EARLY ON AT ANOTHER POST.

2. THERE ARE A FEW COMPLICATIONS. THE MOST SERIOUS IS TIMING. IF THAI ELECTIONS TAKE PLACE IN MARCH, AS WE NOW EXPECT, IT WOULD BE PRUDENT TO HAVE THE MEETING A CONSIDERABLE TIME BEFORE, EITHER IN JANUARY OR DECEMBER. JANUARY WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR ME IF KRIANGSAK'S VISIT TO THE U.S. TAKES PLACE AT THAT TIME. THUS, FROM A TIMING STANDPOINT, THE BEST PERIOD HERE WOULD SEEM TO BE IN EARLY DECEMBER. THE TENG VISIT WOULD ALSO BE WELL OUT OF THE WAY BY THEN.

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3. ADMINISTRATIVELY, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO HANDLE EVERYTHING. THERE IS ONE SLIGHT PROBLEM. OUR CONFERENCE ROOM WILL ONLY SEAT ABOUT 25 AROUND THE TABLE. WE COULD PUT ANOTHER TEN AROUND THE ROOM. I THINK IT IS BEST TO HAVE THE MEETING IN THE EMBASSY RATHER THAN AT A HOTEL.
ABRAMOWITZ

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NNN

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